

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /027 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8978

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: NASRULLAH KHATTAK CHOSEN LEADER OF
FRONTIER PPP

THE FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM CONSUL, PESHAWAR:

1. NASRULLAH KHATTAK, WHO HAS BEEN PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR
TO TUNISIA, HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO BE LEADER OF THE PAKISTAN
PEOPLES' PARTY IN THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

2. AN IMPORTANT LANDOWNER FROM VILLAGE OF MANKI IN
NOWSHERA TEHSIL OF PESHAWAR DISTRICT, NASRULLAH
KHATTAK WAS FORMERLY IN THE POLICE SERVICE AND LATER
ACCUMULATED CONSIDERABLE WEALTH AS A GOVERNMENTAL CON-
TRACTOR. HE SERVED BRIEFLY AS MEMBER OF NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY IN LATE 1960S AND WAS AN EARLY RECRUIT TO
RANKS OF PPP IN 1968. HE RAN THIRD IN THE NOWSHERA TEHSIL
CONTEST FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1970 BEHIND MNA MAULANA
ABDUL HAW OF JAMIAT-UL-ULEMA ISLAM PARTY AND AJMAL
KHATTAK, CANDIDATE OF NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY WHO NOW
RESIDES IN KABUL. FOLLOWING HIS DEFEAT HE WAS MADE
AMBASSADOR TO TUNISIA.

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3. ALTHOUGH HE HAILS FROM NOWSHERA TEHSIL, RECENT PRESS

REPORTS INDICATE HE MAY BE BHUTTO'S NOMINEE TO CONTEST PESHAWAR SEAT IN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY THE RECENTLY ASSASSINATED HAYAT SHERPAO. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN SOME SPECULATION THAT IF HE WINS THIS BY-ELECTION, HE MAY BE CHOSEN TO BE NWFP'S CHIEF MINISTER AS SOON AS GOVERNOR'S RULE IS LIFTED.

4. COMMENT: CONSULATE HAS LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT NASRULLAH KHATTAK SINCE HE HAS BEEN AWAY FROM FRONTIER FOR SEVERAL YEARS. IT IS OF INTEREST TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT PRIMIN HAS NOT PICKED A WELL-KNOWN POLITICAL FIGURE TO LEAD THE NWFP PPP. IN TERMS OF FRONTIER POLITICS, IT WOULD APPEAR THE PRIMIN MADE A WISE DECISION TO CHOOSE A MAN WHOSE POLITICAL BASE IS IN A RURAL AREA INSTEAD OF IN PESHAWAR CITY AND IS A MEMBER OF IMPORTANT TRIBE OF KHATTAKS.
BYROAD

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